

JUAN JOSE MARTINEZ RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.

**Attorney at Law
Abogado - Notario
Apartado PMB-570
1353 Ave. Luis Vigoreaux
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00966
Main Phone (787) 368-0310
Fax No: (787) 985-1209
Email: jjmartrod@yahoo.com**

March 28th, 2022

To: Montgomery County Council

Public Hearing Testimony

Re: Casa Rubén, Inc.

From: Juan José Martínez Rodríguez Esq.

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, 00966

First of all let me express appreciation to all involved in the work of the Council for your public service in identifying needs for social assistance in your County and addressing them through specific, cost effective and measurable goals and objectives.

I had the opportunity to serve, at the start of my legal carrier spanning more than 48 years, as Director of Puerto Rico's Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (T.A.S.C.) Program, a pretrial diversion effort under the auspices of the U.S. National programs of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (L.E.A.A.) and the National Institute of Mental Health (N.I.M.H.). Our program was sponsored in Puerto Rico by the Department of Addiction Services (DESCA for its Spanish acronym) and the matching funds channeled through the Puerto Rico Crime Commission through which annual funding proposals had to be filed, processed for approval and subsequently measured against results for cost effectiveness and justification of public spending.

This experience included interacting with all involved government branches (Judicial, Executive and Legislative) and having to justify appropriately our program's annual budget for the services provided by the more than 40 public employees under my supervision to a clientele mostly of non-violent young adults offenders in need of receiving treatment for their addiction through intervention and referral to treatment programs in lieu of condemning them to entering the criminal justice/prison revolving door syndrome.

I preface my comments to Casa Ruben, Inc.'s proposal with such experience of mine because it may give you an idea of why you should consider valuable my insights and favorable recommendation to Casa Ruben, Inc.'s proposal for funding towards theirs Mobile Clinic in Montgomery County.

I support wholeheartedly this project and proposal.

First of all, I know personally Casa Ruben Inc.'s President and CEO Dr. Ligia Peralta. I met her through her husband and life companion Luis Salgado. I met Luis as High School classmate at Puerto Rico's Colegio San Ignacio, a Jesuit institution, where we experienced the Jesuit motto of serving others for the greater glory of God (*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*). Through our long-lived friendship, coinciding, after High School during College in Boston (he went to MIT, I to Boston College) and later keeping in touch and collaborating in our mutual professional endeavors I can vouch for the seriousness and value of the projects he has been involved in the past and is today involved with, specially as an Immigration Law Expert Consultant.

That is why when I met Dr. Peralta in 2001 in our Jesuit High School's 35th year Class Reunion I knew that she had to be an exceptional woman and professional. It comes to mind that Dr. Peralta, at that reunion met our High School professor (then Mr. Charles Beirne, SJ Scholastic Teacher) and there 35 years later as Reverend Charles J. Beirne, S.J., after having been recently invested as Lemoyne University's President in upstate New York. Father Beirne said Holy Mass for us in that reunion. I know that the late Father Charles Beirne, if he were with us still, would without any doubt vouch for and support Casa Ruben Inc.'s proposal.

So I have known and developed a true friendship with Dr. Peralta for more than 21 years. I have also had the honor of participating in assisting Casa Ruben, Inc.'s efforts to assist immigrants in need of legal support. I have seen her unwavering dedication to provide medical services and much needed correct information during the pandemic to underprivileged sectors of her fellow citizens and other residents in need.

I know that in such efforts she is projecting the legacy of her late father Dr. Ruben Peralta after whom Casa Rubén, Inc. has been named.

I also know that she is inspired by her dear mother's unselfish petition or admonition in her deathbed in 2020 that Dr. Peralta had to keep on helping those in need.

So I see Casa Ruben, Inc.'s project of a Mobile Clinic for the needy eligible underprivileged young people in MoCo, as identified and targeted in the proposal, as a needed, viable, and certainly to become a resounding success.

Not only Dr. Peralta's leadership, professionalism and proven commitment to promote medical assistance to those in need will assure its success, but her sense of personal mission inspired by her parents, will bolster such laudable personal objectives, as exemplified in Casa Ruben's Mobile Clinic.

Also, my good friend Luis Salgado, which is her number one fan and volunteer and supporter, will be helping her in her efforts to make this Mobile Clinic Project a success.

Therefore, please admit as part of the record of these public hearings my favorable comments and this letter of support for Casa Ruben's Mobile Clinic Proposal for Montgomery County.

In Guaynabo, Puerto Rco, March 28, 2022.

Sincerely,

ss://Juan J. Martínez Rodríguez

*JUAN JOSE MARTINEZ RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW and NOTARY
Legal Services and
Immigration Matters
1353 Luis Vigoreaux Ave.
PMB-570
Guaynabo, P.R. 00966
(787) 368-0310
Email: jjmartrod@yahoo.com*

JJMPERS-CASA RUBEN, INC-APOYO (FINAL) 220328